The George Washington University’s Department of Philosophy offers two distinct tracks within their graduate program. The first, a MA in Philosophy and Social Policy, addresses questions of public policy from a humanistic perspective using an interdisciplinary course of study. The second, a new terminal MA in Philosophy, draws upon classic and modern theories to prepare students for a teaching career or the pursuit of a doctorate. Both degrees take full advantage of the opportunities and resources provided by their Washington, D.C. location.

**Philosophy (Master of Arts)**

The new MA in Philosophy develops the critical thinking, close reading, persuasive writing and oral communication skills needed to succeed in both academic and professional realms. Graduates from this track may pursue a doctorate in philosophy or a related field, such as political theory, biomedical ethics and gender studies. The degree includes both analytical and continental philosophy courses in addition to study of historical and contemporary texts, setting the unique curriculum apart from other graduate programs in philosophy.

**Curriculum**

The MA in Philosophy requires:

- Thirty credits (10 courses or 27 credits plus three credits of thesis coursework)
- At least one course in history of philosophy (e.g., Topics in History of Ancient Philosophy or Topics in History of Modern Philosophy)
- Close collaboration with an advisor to design the remaining curriculum to best suit each student’s interests and career goals

**Philosophy and Social Policy (Master of Arts)**

The interdisciplinary Philosophy and Social Policy MA involves specially-focused coursework in philosophy while preparing students to apply the normative, historical and logical tools of philosophical inquiry to today’s policy issues. Through case studies, students analyze the underlying concepts and implications of policies relating to welfare programs, health care, the environment, human rights and equal opportunity. Graduates go on to careers ranging from policy-related positions in U.S. government agencies (e.g., the Congressional Research Service and U.S. Department of Labor) to placement in “think tanks,” nonprofit organizations and lobbying firms.

**Curriculum**

The MA in Philosophy and Social Policy requires:

- Thirty-six credits (12 courses or 30 course credits plus six credit hours of thesis research)
- Four core courses offered by the Department of Philosophy
- Four courses selected from a set of policy-analysis classes (e.g., economics, political science, statistics, and various approaches to public policy)
- Four elective courses chosen in consultation with an advisor
- Comprehensive exam or a thesis and proposal defense

**Application Deadlines**

Well-qualified applicants are considered anytime; however, those seeking funding support must apply by February 1.
Faculty

Avery Archer, Assistant Professor
Research focus: philosophy of mind, action theory, moral psychology

Jeffrey Brand, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, Associate Professor
Research focus: philosophy of law, ethics, political philosophy

Robert Paul Churchill, Elton Professor
Research focus: human rights, moral psychology, political philosophy

David DeGrazia, Professor, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health
Research focus: ethical theory, applied ethics (esp. Bioethics), personal identity theory

Michéle Friend, Associate Professor
Research focus: philosophy of mathematics, logic, environment, science

Derek Malone-France, Associate Professor, Executive Director, University Writing Program
Research focus: philosophy of religion, political philosophy, process philosophy

Laura Papish, Assistant Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Research focus: Kant (esp. Kant’s Moral Theory), contemporary ethics, history of ethics

Mark Ralkowski, Associate Professor
Research focus: ancient philosophy, phenomenology, existentialism

Eric Saidel, Assistant Professor
Research focus: philosophy of mind, biology, psychology

Joseph Trullinger, Assistant Professor
Research focus: modern philosophy, 19th century philosophy, philosophy of religion

Gail Weiss, Professor of Philosophy and CCAS Distinguished Research Chair
Research focus: phenomenology and existentialism, philosophy of race and gender, philosophy of literature

Vanessa Wills, Assistant Professor
Research focus: moral, social and political philosophy, 19th century German philosophy (esp. Marx), philosophy of race

Tadeusz Zawidzki, Associate Professor, Chair of the Department of Philosophy Co-Director of the Mind-Brain-Evolution Cluster
Research focus: philosophy of science, mind, psychology, biology

Program Highlights

- Study with renowned faculty who are pluralistic in training and offer a set of expertise spanning both continental and analytic traditions.
- Enroll either part-time or full-time and attend evening classes designed to accommodate the schedules of working professionals.
- Apply for competitive half-tuition fellowships and paid assistantships.
- Maximize learning in intimate classes of about five-to-10 students and develop strong mentorship relationships with professors through a faculty-student ratio of less than four to one.
- Network with professors, alumni and other professionals through numerous on-and-off campus social events and lectures.
- Design a highly-customized curriculum tailored to your professional and academic ambitions.
- Produce publishable work by selecting a thesis option.

Want to learn more?
Visit: go.gwu.edu/philosophy
Contact: Dr. Laura Papish, laurapapish@gwu.edu
801 22nd Street, NW
Rome Hall, Suite 553
Washington, DC 20052
(202) 994-6265